

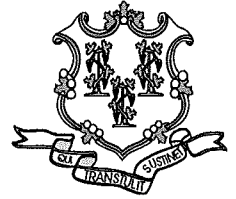


STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Public Hearing Testimony

Education Committee

March 7, 2011



**S.B. No. 1103 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION**

The Department of Children and Families **supports section 4** of S.B. No. 1103, An Act Concerning Early Childhood Education. Included among the changes proposed for that section is the addition of the Commissioner of DCF, or her designee, to the Early Childhood Education Cabinet.

The Department has participated in the work of the Cabinet in the past and looks forward to again becoming a formal member. DCF is actively involved in the area of early childhood development, including our collaboration with Head Start programs, overseeing the Early Childhood Consultation Partnership and the statewide expansion of Child FIRST. We believe that including the Department as a formal member of the Cabinet, will enhance our partnership with other agencies.

**H.B. No. 6499 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO THE
EDUCATION STATUTES**

The Department of Children and Families **supports sections 20 and 21** H.B. No. 6499, An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Education Statutes. These sections are related to truancy issues and require schools to notify parents that two unexcused absences of a child from school in a month or five unexcused absences in a school year may result in a Family With Services Needs (FWSN) complaint being filed with Superior Court.

While current law already permits the filing of a FWSN complaint in truancy matters, DCF believes that proper parental notice may help resolve truancy concerns before it necessitates Court involvement.